

Richard Rich – Eastham Land Records 1650 - 1745

Richard Rich arrived in Eastham from Dover Neck, New Hampshire about 1665 according to historian Shebnah Rich. Richard was married to Sarah Roberts, daughter of Gov. Thomas Roberts of New Hampshire. They lived in the northern part of Eastham. Richard was a mariner and he was lost at sea off Eastham in 1692. In 1907 a monument was erected for Richard Rich and other Rich family members in Truro Old North Cemetery.

1681

The Town voted and admitted Richard Rich as an inhabitant. PDF P44.

1686

Richard Rich purchased from three residents of Eastham their rights and interest in the thousand acres purchased by Samuel Smith from John Sipson, Indian, for Town use. Rich paid five shillings each to Steven Atwood Sr. and to Steven Atwood Jr. for their rights and interest in the Smith Purchase. Also, William Mayo sold his rights and interest in the Smith Purchase to Rich as payment for his debt due to Rich. The rights and interest was not defined in the record. PDF A1, M214, S59.

1691

Richard Rich and Zebulon Thorpe were involved in land transactions at an area called Rich's Island. The Town granted Thorpe twenty acres of upland near Thorpe's dwelling house at Rich's Island. Rich and Thorpe agreed that a point of land at the mouth of Coggen's Creek at Rich's Island would lye undivided. They would not cut any green timber unless for cutting a cart way to the great beach. Bounds of this area were indicated by marked trees and the area extended to Norman's Creek. The extent of Richard Rich's land holding at Rich's Island and the location of Rich's Island were not described in the record. PDF A194, M104, S101

1711

Granted to Richard Rich and his heirs four acres of upland on the northerly side of Blackfish Creek and near land of James Brown and Samuel Brown. PDF T96.

1712

Granted to Richard Rich and his heirs four acres of upland on Griffith's Island at Billingsgate near land of Simon Newcomb. PDF T96.

1715

Granted to Richard Rich and his heirs a wood lot near Pamet Point and next to land of Ebenezer Freeman. Complete dimensions of the lot were not given but the size of surrounding lots indicates that the Rich lot was at least twenty-five acres. PDF T297.

The land owned by Richard Rich and his heirs described in these records probably amounts to more than fifty acres. Most of the land was in the Billingsgate and Pamet areas of Eastham which would become Wellfleet and Truro. Two sons of Richard also received Eastham land grants.